

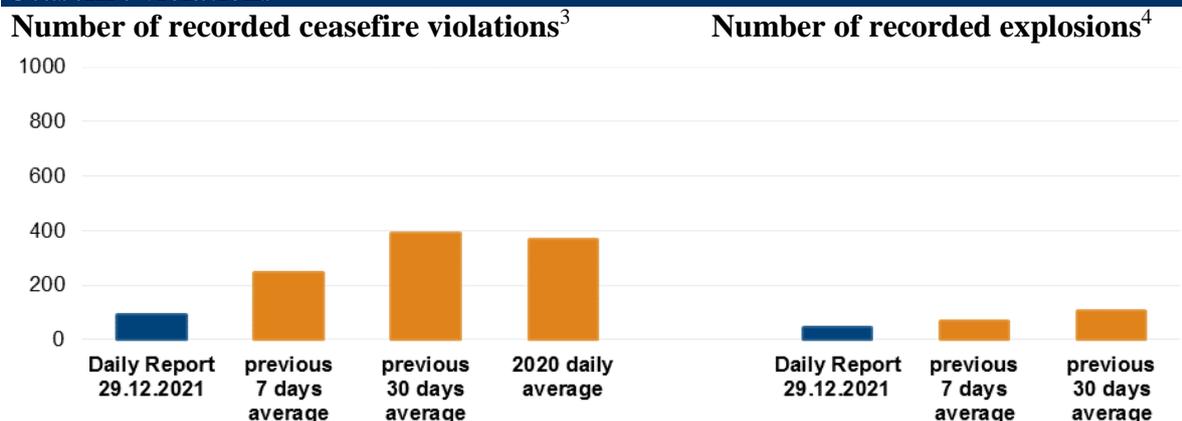
Daily Report 304/2021

29 December 2021¹

Summary

- In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded seven ceasefire violations. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 525 ceasefire violations in the region.
- In Luhansk region, the Mission recorded 84 ceasefire violations, including 45 explosions. In the previous 24 hours, it recorded 22 ceasefire violations in the region.
- The SMM continued monitoring the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. It spotted people inside the areas near Zolote and Petrivske.
- The Mission facilitated the operation of critical civilian infrastructure.
- The SMM continued following up on the situation of civilians, including at three entry-exit checkpoints and two corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations.
- The Mission visited a border crossing point outside government control in Donetsk region.
- The SMM monitored the security situation in east and south-east Kherson region.
- The Mission observed a gathering in Kyiv.
- The SMM's freedom of movement continued to be restricted, including at a checkpoint of the armed formations in Donetsk region.*

Ceasefire violations²



¹ Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 19:30, 28 December 2021. All times are in Eastern European Time.

² For a complete breakdown of ceasefire violations, please see the annexed table. During the reporting period, the SMM camera near Petrivske was not operational and weather conditions limited the observational capabilities of other SMM cameras.

³ Including explosions.

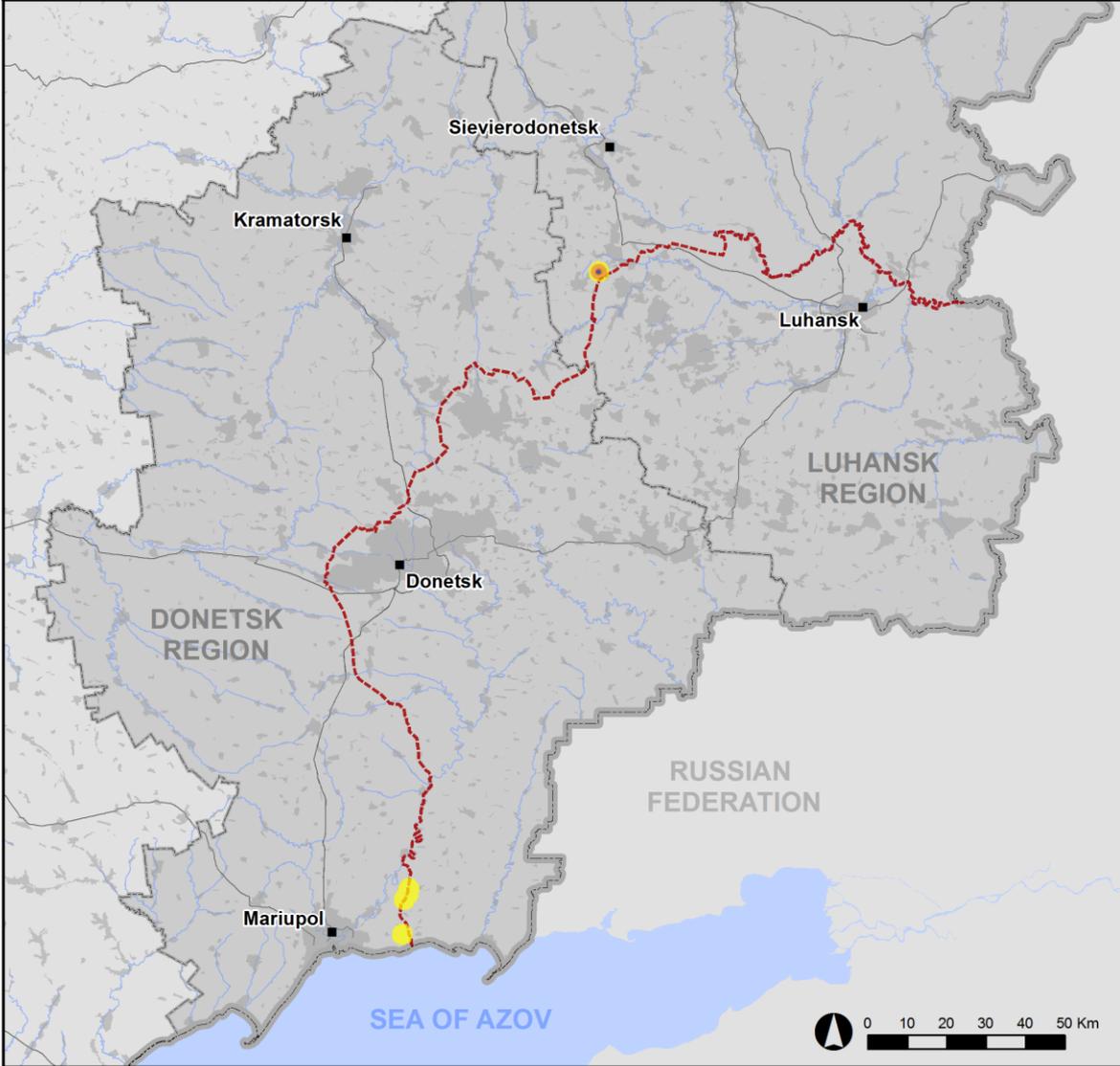
⁴ Including from unidentified weapons.

Map of recorded ceasefire violations

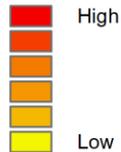


Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Ceasefire violations observed by the SMM 28 December 2021



Ceasefire violation concentration



- Explosion
- Settlement
- Estimated line of contact

Sources: Administrative Boundaries - OCHA; Roads, Rivers - OpenStreetMap; Sea - VLIZ (2005). IHO Sea Areas; Other - OSCE.

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 37N

This map is provided for illustrative purposes only. Its content is not warranted to be error-free and does not imply endorsement or acceptance by the OSCE SMM.

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Created: 29/12/2021

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded seven ceasefire violations. All but one ceasefire violation occurred in areas east-north-east and east of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km south of Donetsk). In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded 525 ceasefire violations in the region, some of which also occurred near Hnutove.

In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded 84 ceasefire violations, including 45 undetermined explosions. All ceasefire violations occurred in an area west of the disengagement area near Zolote (government-controlled, 60km west of Luhansk) (see below). In the [previous 24 hours](#), the Mission recorded 22 ceasefire violations in the region, some of which also occurred close to the disengagement area.

Following agreement reached at the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group on 22 July 2020 regarding Measures to strengthen the ceasefire, from 00:01 on 27 July 2020 until the end of the reporting period, the SMM has recorded at least 98,390 ceasefire violations in both Donetsk and Luhansk regions (including 26,949 explosions, 23,586 projectiles in flight, 418 muzzle flashes, 415 illumination flares and at least 47,022 bursts and shots).

Disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske⁵

Inside the **disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska** (government-controlled, 16km north-east of Luhansk), the Mission saw three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them) south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge.

During the day on 27 December, inside the **disengagement area near Zolote**, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted a person in a former position of the armed formations about 1.5km north of the area’s south-eastern corner.

During the day on 28 December, while on the northern edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km west of Luhansk), the Mission recorded 45 undetermined explosions and 39 bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire, all assessed as outside the disengagement area, but within 5km of its periphery.

On the same day, near the checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote, the SMM saw three members of the armed formations (wearing armbands with “JCCC” written on them). The Mission again saw the seven previously observed containers located south of the area’s southern edge and inside the disengagement area. It saw that the previously reported road barriers across road T-1316, on the area’s southern edge, continued to be closed.

During the day on 27 December, inside the **disengagement area near Petrivske** (non-government-controlled, 41km south of Donetsk), the aforementioned SMM long-range UAV spotted a person in a former position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces about 550m east-north-east of the area’s south-western corner. The same UAV also spotted a person in a former position of the armed formations, about 300m north-north-west of the area’s south-eastern corner.

⁵ Disengagement is foreseen in the Framework Decision of the Trilateral Contact Group relating to disengagement of forces and hardware of 21 September 2016.

Withdrawal of weapons

The Mission continued to monitor the withdrawal of weapons in implementation of the Memorandum and the Package of Measures and its Addendum.

In violation of withdrawal lines, the SMM observed one surface-to-air missile system near Vrubivka (government-controlled, 72km west of Luhansk).

Beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites, the Mission saw two probable anti-aircraft systems at a compound at an airfield near Syrotyne (government-controlled, 71km north-west of Luhansk). (For further information, see the tables below.)

Indications of military and military-type presence in the security zone

The SMM saw 16 armoured combat vehicles (four of which probable) and one anti-aircraft gun in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including near a residential area, as well as one trench digger and six armoured combat vehicles (one of which probable) in non-government-controlled areas of Luhansk region, including at compounds in residential areas. (For further information, see the table below.)

SMM facilitation of the operation of critical civilian infrastructure

The Mission continued to facilitate the operation of the Donetsk Filtration Station (15km north of Donetsk).

Situation at entry-exit checkpoints and corresponding checkpoints

In Luhansk region, the SMM observed that the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) near Stanytsia Luhanska and the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the repaired span of the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge were open, with people queueing to travel in both directions.

The Mission noted that the EECP near Zolote was open, but that the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations south of the disengagement area near Zolote was closed. Along road T-1316, between the EECP near Zolote and the following southern intersection, the SMM observed construction works involving about 12 workers (men, in their twenties to fifties), carrying out ground work, building a fence and working on the roof of a building, reportedly to be used as an administrative office and as a shelter for people traveling towards non-government-controlled areas.

The Mission observed that the EECP near Shchastia (government-controlled, 20km north of Luhansk) was open. While at the checkpoint, the SMM observed two trucks bearing the logo of an international humanitarian organisation, stationary on the roadside about 100m north-west of the EECP.

Areas near the border outside government control⁶

While at the border crossing point near Uspenka (73km south-east of Donetsk), for about an hour, the Mission observed 12 cars (including eight with “DPR” plates), two covered cargo trucks, one bus and two mini-buses (with “DPR” plates, carrying about 70 passengers in total, of mixed genders and ages) and 36 pedestrians (21 women and 15 men, mixed ages) entering Ukraine. At the same time, the SMM observed eight cars (including three with “DPR” plates), one covered cargo truck (with “DPR” plates), one bus and three mini-buses (with “DPR” plates, carrying about 85 passengers in total, of mixed genders and ages) and 13 pedestrians (eight men and five women, mixed ages) exiting Ukraine.

Security situation in east and south-east Kherson region

From 24 to 26 December, the Mission monitored areas in east and south-east Kherson region at checkpoints near Kalanchak (67km south-east of Kherson), Chonhar (163km south-east of Kherson), at a State Border Guard Service of Ukraine post near Valok (193km south-east of Kherson) and along the North Crimean Canal. The Mission also visited areas near Ivanivka (109km south-east of Kherson), as well as areas along the coast of the Sea of Azov near Henichesk (176km east of Kherson), Strilkove (193km south-east of Kherson) and Novooleksiivka (162km east of Kherson). While monitoring these areas, the SMM observed no change in the security situation.

The Mission observed a gathering in Kyiv

On 28 December, in front of the Office of the President of Ukraine at 11 Bankova Street in Kyiv, the SMM observed a gathering of about 1,000 people (mixed genders and ages), some of whom were holding Ukrainian flags and banners of *Bastion*, *National Resistance* and *Patriot Association* expressing messages critical of elected officials. The SMM observed about 200 law enforcement officers and a calm situation.

The SMM continued monitoring in Odessa, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Kharkiv, Dnipro, and Chernivtsi.

⁶ According to decisions in 2014 by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, operations are officially designated as suspended at these and other border crossing points located outside government control.

***Restrictions of the SMM's freedom of movement or other impediments to fulfilment of its mandate**

The SMM's monitoring and freedom of movement are restricted by security hazards and threats, including risks posed by mines, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other impediments – which vary from day to day. The SMM's mandate provides for safe and secure access throughout Ukraine. All signatories of the Minsk agreements have agreed on the need for this safe and secure access, that restriction of the SMM's freedom of movement constitutes a violation, and on the need for rapid response to these violations. They have also agreed that the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) should contribute to such response and co-ordinate mine clearance. Nonetheless, the armed formations in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions frequently deny the SMM access to areas adjacent to Ukraine's border outside control of the government (for example, see [SMM Daily Report of 28 December 2021](#)). The SMM's operations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions remain restricted following [the fatal incident of 23 April 2017 near Pryshyb](#); these restrictions continued to limit the Mission's observations.

Denial:

- At a checkpoint in Staromykhailivka (non-government-controlled, 15km west of Donetsk) a visibly armed member of the armed formations denied the SMM passage further west into the settlement citing a “lack of prior notification”. While at the checkpoint, the Mission saw civilian traffic passing through.

Regular restrictions related to disengagement areas and mines/UXO:

- The sides continued to deny the SMM full access, as well as the ability to travel certain roads previously identified as important for effective monitoring by the Mission and for civilians' movement, through failure to conduct comprehensive clearance of mines, UXO and other obstacles.

Table of weapons

Weapons in violation of withdrawal lines

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
27/12/2021	1	Surface-to-air missile system (9K33 <i>Osa</i>)	Near Vrubivka (72km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV

Weapons beyond withdrawal lines but outside designated storage sites

Date	No. of weapons	Type of weapon	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
27/12/2021	2	Probable self-propelled anti-aircraft system (2K22 <i>Tunguska</i>)	At a compound at an airfield near Syrotyne (71km north-west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV

Table of military and military-type presence in the security zone⁷

Date	No.	Type	Location	Source of observation
Government-controlled areas				
27/12/2021	3	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near a residential area of Karlivka (25km north-west of Donetsk)	Long-range UAV
	4	Probable infantry fighting vehicle (BMP variant)	Near Novotoshkivske (53km west of Luhansk)	
	5	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Pidlisne (70km north-west of Luhansk)	
	4	Armoured combat vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Vrubivka (72km west of Luhansk)	
	1	Anti-aircraft gun (ZU-23, 23mm)	Near Myrna Dolyna (67km north-west of Luhansk)	Patrol
Non-government-controlled areas				
27/12/2021	1	Trench digger (type undetermined)	At a compound in a residential area of Katerynivka (8km west of Luhansk)	Long-range UAV
	1	Probable armoured personnel carrier (BTR variant)	At a compound in a residential area of Novoselivka (16km west of Luhansk)	
	1	Armoured personnel carrier (MT-LB)	Near Berezivske (53km north-west of Luhansk)	Mini-UAV
	3	Infantry fighting vehicle (type undetermined)	Near Smile (31km north-west of Luhansk)	
	1	Infantry fighting vehicle (BMP-1)		

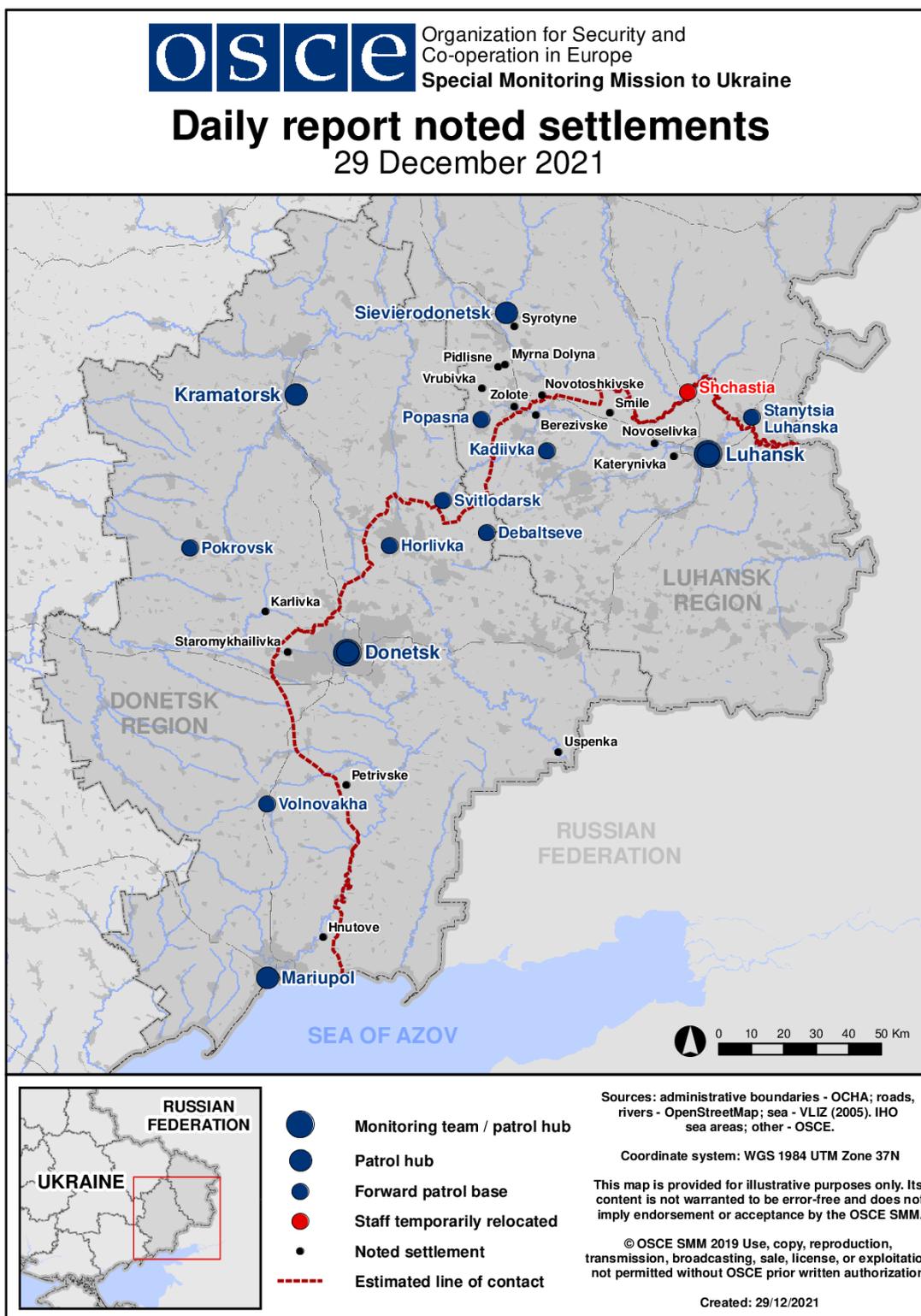
⁷ The hardware mentioned in this section is not proscribed by the provisions of the Minsk agreements on the withdrawal of weapons.

Table of ceasefire violations as of 28 December 2021⁸

SMM position	Event location	Means	No.	Observation	Description	Weapon	Date, time
SMM camera 1.5km NE of Hnutove (government-controlled, 90km S of Donetsk)	3-5km SE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	27-Dec, 23:44
	3-5km E	Recorded	2	Projectile	NNW to SSE	N/K	28-Dec, 00:58
	3-5km E	Recorded	1	Projectile	In vertical flight	N/K	28-Dec, 01:47
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE	N/K	28-Dec, 02:21
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Muzzle flash		N/K	28-Dec, 02:21
	3-5km ESE	Recorded	1	Projectile	SSW to NNE (subsequent to previous event)	N/K	28-Dec, 02:21
SMM camera 1km SW of Shyrokyne (government-controlled, 100km S of Donetsk)	3-5km N	Recorded	1	Illumination flare	In vertical flight	N/K	27-Dec, 22:19
N edge of Popasna (government-controlled, 69km W of Luhansk)	4-6km E	Heard	12	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	28-Dec, 15:15-15:35
	4-6km E	Heard	5	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	28-Dec, 15:15-15:35
	4-6km E	Heard	33	Explosion	Undetermined (assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote)	N/K	28-Dec, 15:45-15:55
	4-6km E	Heard	34	Burst	Assessed as outside the disengagement area near Zolote	HMG	28-Dec, 15:45-15:55

⁸ The table only includes ceasefire violations directly observed by SMM patrols or recorded by the SMM cameras, and it may include those also assessed to be live-fire exercises, controlled detonations, etc. Details provided – in terms of distance, direction, weapons-type, etc. – are based on assessments provided by monitors on the ground and technical monitoring officers, and are not always necessarily precise. When information is not known (indicated with an “N/K”), the SMM was unable to ascertain such information due to distance, weather conditions technical limitations and/or other considerations. Ceasefire violations recorded by more than one patrol/camera and assessed to be the same are entered only once.

Map of Donetsk and Luhansk regions⁹



⁹ The SMM is deployed to ten locations throughout Ukraine – Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipro, Chernivtsi, Luhansk and Kyiv – as per Permanent Council Decision 1117 of 21 March 2014. This map of eastern Ukraine is meant for illustrative purposes and indicates locations mentioned in the report, as well as those where the SMM has offices (monitoring teams, patrol hubs and forward patrol bases) in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. (In red: a forward patrol base from which SMM staff have temporarily relocated based on recommendations of security experts from participating States, as well as SMM security considerations. The SMM uses the premises during daylight hours and also patrols in this settlement during daylight hours).